

Appl. No. 10/713,734

Amtd. dated January 15, 2008

Reply to Office action of October 16, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-10, 12-14 and 23-31 remain in this application. In this response, Applicants have canceled claims 15 and 19.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1-10, 12-15 and 23-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morscheck et al (Patent No.: 6,076,080) Filing date of Nov. 4, 1997) (hereinafter "Morscheck"), in view of Larcheveque et al (Pub. No.: US 2004/0189708 A1: Filing date of March 28, 2003) (hereinafter "Larcheveque"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts that Morscheck discloses the elements of claims 1 and 23. Claim 1 of Applicants' present invention discloses two particular elements that the examiner asserts that Morscheck describes. These elements are: receiving a validation rule description; searching the rules repository for rules matching the rule description.

Applicants' present invention describes a method and system for creating a validation rules repository for electronic form validation rules. These rules would govern the inputting of data into electronic forms. Software instructions that implement these validation rules would be linked to a record in the repository corresponding to each validation rule. During the creation of an electronic form on a web page, the software instructions that execute a rule for a particular data input field on the form would be automatically installed within the web page. This automatic rule installation is a substantial improvement from the current process of manually installing the code for a validation rule each time a form creator desires to use that rule. In addition to incorporating existing validation rules, the present invention provides for the creation of new validation rules and the storage of these newly created rules in the rules repository.

In the method of the present invention, the creator of an electronic form will desire information for a particular field on the form. This field could be for example a zip code field. The person supplying the information would enter his/her zip code in that

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field. However, the form creator may desire that the zip code be only five digits in length instead of the nine-digit zip codes. Therefore, the form creator desires to have a form validation rule for the zip code that will enforce this five-digit limitation. In the present invention, the form creator would access the rules repository to retrieve a zip code validation rule that limits the zip code to only five numerical digits. Once in the repository, the creator may desire to view the list of available rules. It is possible that there will be multiple zip code rules from which to select. In this case, the creator would select the rule that best achieves the creator's desires.

Instead of viewing a list of validation rules, another alternative approach could be for the form creator to enter a description of the rule that the creator wants to implement. With either approach, there is an identification of the specific rule desired for the information in that particular field on the form. Software code (instructions) that executes the desired rule is retrieved from a storage location pointed to by information in the pointer field of the selected rule. After the retrieval of the software code, there is an identification of the field in the electronic form for which the selected rule will validate submitted information.

In the event that the form creator does not find a desired validation rule in the repository, the present invention provides mechanisms to create new validation rules and store these newly created rules in the rules repository. Figure 10, steps and 82 and paragraph [0043] illustrate and describe the method of the present invention that provides for the creation of new rules when a search of the repository fails to find a described or appropriate rule. After the creation of a new validation rule, steps 83, 84 and 85 provide for the storing of a newly created rule in the rules repository.

Morscheck describes an order entry system comprising a first computer system, a printing station computer system, a form design repository, a second computer system, a validation engine, and a pricing engine. The first computer system captures form design data and the second computer generates a form price, validates the form, and transmits a validated and priced order to the printing station computer system. The second computer is also programmed to store an index of form design files in the form design repository. The forms order entry system is also programmed to determine manufacturability of an

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ordered form by comparing its form design data to a set of validation rules and route manufacturability exceptions to a selected one of a plurality of exception handling locations.

Morscheck uses validation rules in the second computer to validate the design data captured in the first computer. This activity is a standard action and use in electronic forms. The information/data captured in the first computer is not information describing the function of a validation rule. Morscheck is a method and system for designing forms. In Applicants' invention, there is a desire to retrieve a particular validation rule. The information describing the rule is submitted and a search of the rules repository is performed to retrieve the rule. If the search does not find a rule that matches the description of the rules, the user is given an opportunity to create such a rule. The design data in Morscheck is not a description of a rule, but is the specification for an order form. Any comparison step in Morscheck is to determine the forms order by comparing the form design data with a set of validation rules. Morscheck seeks to determine the manufacturability and feasibility of making an order form. Applicants' present invention attempts to automatically search a rules repository for a described rule and to create the rule if it is not found during the search.

Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to present a prima facie case of obviousness. As described above, Morscheck (U.S. patent 6,076,080), the primary reference, fails to teach (inter alia) the elements in Applicants' invention of receiving a rule request; receiving a validation rule description; and searching the rules repository for rules matching the rule description.

With regard to Larcheveque (U.S. Publication 2004/0189708), the Examiner asserts that Larcheveque teaches the element of sending a query to the user to create a new rule when no rule matches the validation rule description and storing the created rule in the rules repository. A system and method validating entry of data into a structured data file in real-time is described. The system and method also described a real-time validation tool that enables a developer to create custom validation rules.

Although Larcheveque does provide the opportunity to create validation, unlike Applicants' present invention, the opportunity in Larcheveque is a standard option similar

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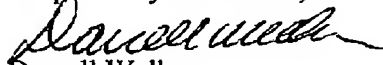
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to the developer when the developer accesses a node. Referring to paragraph [0098], the system 100 can enable the developer's selection of a preset or script-based validation rule through many user-interface manners, including by presenting a pop-up window with various options, one of which includes an option to add a custom validation rule to the selected node. The developer can choose from a preset list of validation rules or can choose to create his or her own validation rule by creating script. Unlike, Applicants' present invention, this option in Larcheveque is not in response to a failed search for a rule as claimed in Applicants' present invention.

Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to present a prima facie case of obviousness. As described above, Morscheck (U.S. patent 6,076,080), the primary reference, fails to teach (inter alia) the elements in Applicants' invention of receiving a rule request; receiving a validation rule description; and searching the rules repository for rules matching the rule description. Larcheveque fails to teach the step of sending a query to the user to create a new rule when no rule matches the validation rule description. Applicants' submit that there is there is no suggestion or teaching to modify (combine) the references. If there is no teaching, there is no prima facie case for obviousness. Applicants further submit that these references separately or in combination do not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of the claims. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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